

Appl. No. 09/674,051
Atty. Docket No. 7129
Amdt. dated 2/11/2004
Reply to Office Action of 8/13/2003
Customer No. 27752

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claim 36 is now in the case. Claim 36 has been amended to correct transcribing errors and to specify that the liquid added to the detergent composition is polyethylene glycol (PEG), its preferred molecular weight range and its preferred usage range. Basis is found at page 10, l. 9-16. The resulting product is a tablet. Basis at p. 19, l. 32. It is submitted that the amendment is fully supported, and entry is requested.

Formal Matters

The objection to Claim 24 has been obviated by the cancellation of that claim.

Rejections Under 35 USC 103

All claims stand rejected under §103 over U.S. 5,731,279, for reasons of record at pages 3-5 of the Office Action.

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections on this basis, to the extent they may apply to Claim 36, as now amended.

The earlier remarks regarding the dearth of disclosure in '279 relating to tablet formation continues to apply, but will not be repeated here, for the sake of brevity.

It is noted, however, that '279 contains an exhaustive disclosure of a wide variety of ingredients for use in detergent compositions. Yet, it is submitted that nothing therein suggests the selection of PEG of the present type, at the present levels, and its use with a mixture of the present type, to prepare tablets.

Said another way, there is no motivation, absent hindsight, to suggest, "...the desirability, and the obviousness of making the combination" of the present invention from the broad disclosures of '279. *Lindeman Maschinenfabrik GmbH v. American Hoist & Derrick Co.*, 730 F. 2d 1452, 1462 (Fed. Cir. 1984).

In light of the above amendments and remarks, early and favorable action in the case is requested.

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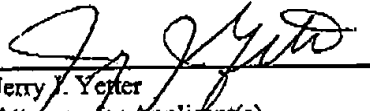
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Respectfully submitted,
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